

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
IN SUPPORT OF
LD 570**

**“An Act To Authorize the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and
Wildlife To Postpone or Cancel an Open Hunting Season”**

Sponsored By: Representative WOOD of Sabattus
Cosponsored By: Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Representatives: CRAFTS of Lisbon
Representative DUNPHY of Old Town
Representative HOBART of Bowdoinham
Representative SHORT of Pittsfield
Senator: DUTREMBLE of York.

DATE OF HEARING: March 19, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Davis, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Judy Camuso, Wildlife Division Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in support of **L.D. 570**

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to postpone or cancel an open hunting season if, based on principles of sound scientific wildlife management, it is necessary for wildlife conservation purposes.

The Commissioner currently has authority under 12 § 10105 Section 15: “The commissioner, after consultation with the Governor and the advisory council and by proclamation of the Governor, may terminate any open season for hunting, fishing or trapping at any time in any area if, in the commissioner’s opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to adverse weather conditions or unlawful hunting, fishing or trapping activity...”. This proposed bill would expand that authority to include “for wildlife conservation” and would allow the Commissioner to close a season based on scientific wildlife management. This bill would allow the Department to respond appropriately and in a timely fashion if there should be a management concern for a particular species.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.